

COMPETITOR PRISONERS OUT

QUEEN REGENT OF SPAIN PARDONS THE FOUR UNFORTUNATES.

WAS ONCE CONDEMNED TO DIE.

DeLome Has a Conference With Assistant Secretary Day In Regard to Weyler's Tobacco Decree.

Minister Woodford at Madrid has telegraphed the state department that the Spanish cabinet has notified him that the queen has pardoned the Competitor prisoners.

The state department now announces that the Competitor prisoners were turned over to General Lee last Monday and will be sent by him direct to New York.

It is not doubted in Washington that the prisoners are liberated on some such conditions as were imposed in the case of former prisoners, that is that they will not return to Cuba.

After their bitter experience in the Cuban jails, it is not believed the men will be disposed to violate any understanding of this kind to which they may be parties. It is singular that the men should have been for four days in the custody of Consul General Lee without the fact having become generally known, but it is supposed that secrecy was observed in order to secure departure from Havana without exciting trouble from the extreme conservative Spanish faction.

There were four prisoners, namely, Alfred O. Laborde, the captain of the Competitor, a native of New Orleans; William Gildea, the mate, a naturalized citizen; Ona Melton, who claims Kansas as his native state, and who went on the Competitor in the capacity of a newspaper correspondent; Charles Barnett, of British birth, but who claimed the protection of the United States by virtue of his sailing on an American vessel.

The conditions under which the Competitor was captured April 25, 1896, off the Cuban coast while engaged in landing arms for the insurgents have been often described. The defense of the men was that they were forced into the expedition against their will by the insurgent party aboard the boat. They were tried by a naval court-martial before which they could make only a poor showing, principally because of their ignorance of the Spanish language in which the proceedings were conducted, so that their conviction and the imposition of the death sentence was not a matter of surprise.

At that point, however, the case assumed diplomatic importance.

May Revoke Weyler's Decree.

Senor Dupuy de Lome, the Spanish minister, had a long conference with Assistant Secretary Day Thursday morning and it is believed that the Spanish government is voluntarily about to remove another troublesome factor from the field of negotiations in revoking the decree made by Weyler prohibiting the exportation of tobacco from Cuba.

The reason set up by General Weyler for the order was the necessity of keeping in Havana the supply of tobacco necessary to run the domestic cigar factories and thus, by giving employment to workmen, keep them from drifting into the insurgent ranks. It was a matter of common report, however, that another potent reason was a desire to cripple the Cuban cigar makers in the United States, from whom the insurgents drew funds.

SUICIDE'S CONFESSION READ.

Sensation Sprung at Trial of Arroyo's Lynchers in City of Mexico.

A profound sensation was made in the course of the trial of the police officials of the City of Mexico, who are charged with the murder of Arroyo, by the production of the confession of the late inspector general of police, Velasquez, who suicided. It is a most remarkable attempt at self-justification, and falsely states that a mob of the common people lynched Arroyo.

The prosecuting attorney in a strong argument pleaded for the execution of a death sentence on all the prisoners except ex-Assistant Chief of Detectives Cabrera and one other minor prisoner.

THE WILL NOT SIGNED.

Beresford's Wife Was Not Disinherited After All.

An interesting piece of news has come to light on information furnished by Dr. Miller, a member of the city council of Fitzgerald, Ga.

Dr. Miller says that the father-in-law of Lord Beresford alias Sydney Lascelles, did not disinherit his daughter as has been reported.

The will was drawn up and the lawyer who had been employed for the purpose was called away and during his absence the much-abused father suddenly died. Consequently the document was never signed and is harmless.

A DEADLY DUEL

Growing Out of the Brann-Baylor Trouble at Waco, Texas.

A terrible pistol duel, in which the recent Brann-Baylor university episode prominently figures, occurred on the streets of Waco, Texas, Friday afternoon, and as a result W. A. Harris, a well-known citizen and insurance agent, is dead; Editor J. W. Harris lies mortally wounded, and G. B. Gerald, a prominent lawyer, is seriously injured, while a negro bystander, who was hit by a stray bullet, is painfully hurt.

When the sun was shining brightly and the streets were crowded the long-expected battle growing out of the Brann-Baylor trouble took place. Colonel Gerald was advancing from one corner diagonally across Austin avenue to the next corner, and J. W. Harris, editor of The Waco Morning Times-Herald, was standing in front of the corner drug store, talking to two friends.

When Editor Harris saw Colonel Gerald coming he remarked to his friends that trouble was on hand and that they had better get out of the way. Without further delay he drew his pistol and fired at Colonel Gerald, who was rapidly moving in his direction. When Gerald saw Harris he halted, unbuttoned his overcoat, thrust his hand into his bosom and drew his own revolver, after which he advanced on Harris rapidly, and when at close range fired a shot which hit Harris in the neck, sending him to the ground completely paralyzed.

Meanwhile, from the corner opposite, in front of the Citizens' National bank, W. A. Harris, brother of J. W. Harris, was firing at Gerald, and Gerald was now wounded in two places and bleeding.

After disposing of Editor J. W. Harris, Gerald faced his second antagonist and marched straight across the street after him in a trot. A policeman rushed between the two and did all he could to keep them apart at the point of a pistol, but they closed in spite of the policeman's efforts and continued to shoot till W. A. Harris sank to the sidewalk a corpse.

Colonel Gerald fell during the fight, but arose to his feet quickly and when both of his antagonists were down on the ground he walked off with one arm shattered, swinging by his side, and blood spurting from a wound in the hip. After glancing about in every direction he found an officer and offered to surrender. He said:

"They laid for me, but I got them both; that is, I think I did."

The trouble grew out of the attacks in Brann's Iconoclast on the Baylor university. Editor Harris took the side of Baylor and condemned Brann bitterly in his paper. Gerald took a communication defending Brann to the paper, but it was not published. Gerald went to get his manuscript and he and Editor Harris had a fight in which Gerald was worsted. Gerald then published a circular giving his side of the affair and scattered it broadcast. He denounced Harris in unmeasured terms.

LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE.

Engineer and Fireman Have Desperate Fight On Flying Train.

On a freight train dashing southward over the Louisville and Nashville railroad at the rate of thirty miles an hour Thursday night, one of the most thrilling encounters ever recorded in fact or fiction occurred.

Soon after the train left Birmingham, and when two miles from the city, the engineer, E. P. Bishop, told the fireman, Wiley Craig, colored, to stir up the fire. The negro paid no attention to the order, and it was repeated. This time he uttered an oath, and springing from his seat, drew a revolver and suddenly and without warning fired a shot point blank at the engineer.

The bullet missed the engineer, who struck the revolver from the negro's hand just as the latter was about to fire a second shot. Craig, now crazed with rage, instantly drew an ugly knife, and grasping the engineer by the shoulder, pulled him from the box and began to cut him across the breast.

Bishop had a pistol in his hip pocket but he was held for a time in such a position that he could not reach it. Finally, after a desperate struggle, during which the two men rolled over and over on the floor of the cab, Bishop managed to draw his pistol and fire. The bullet struck the negro in the breast and penetrated his heart. Without a groan he fell back into the darkness to the ground.

BLASTING POWDER ON BOARD.

Trimmers Find Explosive on the Big Ship Amphitrite.

News comes from Norfolk, Va., on what is considered good authority that a keg of twenty-five pounds of blasting powder was found by the coal trimmers of the Amphitrite, while that vessel was coaling at Lambert's Point a few days ago.

The keg, it seems, passed down into the bunkers and was there discovered by the men, who took it on deck and tested it.

Its presence is a mystery, but the most plausible theory is that it was left in the car at the mines and brought in beneath the coal.

TO BUILD BIG UNIVERSITY.

PROJECT FOR FULFILLMENT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S WISH.

MATTER TAKING DEFINITE SHAPE.

Prominent Women of America Are Enlisted in the Movement and Will Carry It Through.

A Washington special says: The oft agitated question of establishing in the city of Washington a great national university on the lines suggested by President Washington, has at last taken more definite form than in the past, and a number of representative men and women have taken hold of the project with a determination to push it to a successful conclusion if possible. They have started out in a practical manner by seeking to raise the first \$250,000 necessary for the erection of an administration building to form the nucleus of the university and hope to be able to lay the corner stone on February 22, 1899.

Their purpose in the interim is to urge the matter continuously on the attention of women all over the country. They intend likewise to interest all the school children in the work. As a first step for awakening interest in the undertaking they will assemble in convention in Washington December 14 to decide on ways and means for arousing public sentiment. Among those who have initiated the movement to fulfill Washington's wish are Mrs. Phoebe Hearst, of Washington; Mrs. Ellen A. Richardson, of Boston; Mrs. Clara R. Anthony, Miss Rachel Howland, Miss Louise Tincker and Mrs. Edmond Anthony, Jr., of Massachusetts; Mrs. I. S. Boyd, of Georgia; Mrs. W. A. Roebbing, of New Jersey; Mrs. John K. Goodloe, of Kentucky; Mrs. H. H. Adams, Connecticut; Mrs. C. S. Brice, Ohio; Mrs. Eugene Hale, Mrs. David Starr Jordan, Dr. Charlotte Blake Brown, Mrs. F. S. Hubbard and Miss Caroline Jackson, of California.

Mrs. Ellen A. Richardson, of Boston, chief organizer of the movement, writing of the plans, said:

"The patriotic ladies of America are to build the administration building, and they propose to make the 22d of February, 1899, the nation's first offering for this purpose, asking no large contributions, begging nothing. America's 70,000,000 people must build this great monument. If the 30,000,000 children in the public schools of America would give an offering of one penny each on Washington's birthday they would raise a sum sufficient to erect the building and endow it. Let us, then, join hands and have an American university, American science and American ideas for Americans."

Mrs. Richardson further stated that she had arranged with the proper authorities that the bureau of engraving and printing shall produce certificates which will be given to those who contribute to the movement.

EXPERTS REACH AGREEMENT

By Which the Bering Sea Question Will Be Adjusted.

A Washington special says: The Bering sea meeting, in which representatives of Great Britain, Canada and the United States have participated, came to a close Tuesday night, the seal experts making a unanimous report concerning the condition of the seal herds, and the diplomatic representatives of the respective governments reaching an understanding by which they hope at a later day to effect final adjustment, not only of the Bering sea question, but of other pending border controversies.

For the present, however, no final action was taken as to the suspension of pelagic sealing.

The Canadians urged that other questions be embraced in any plan of settlement, and suggested an international commission to accomplish this end. This proposition was fully discussed, and an agreement reached that the Canadian officials would put their views in writing after returning to Ottawa and submit them to the authorities here. All parties concerned say that the outlook is favorable to a satisfactory adjustment.

The agreement of the experts brings the governments together for the first time on all the facts relating to the seals.

BOYCOTT IS ILLEGAL

According to a Decision in a Missouri Court of Appeals.

An opinion handed down in the United States circuit court of appeals at St. Louis holds that the boycott is not a legal weapon. The decision is of interest to labor organizations all over the country, inasmuch as it upholds the rights of corporations to introduce their saving devices.

The case in question was that of the Oxley State Company of Kansas City vs. H. C. Hoskins and twelve others. The defendants, who are all members of Coopers' Union No. 1 of Kansas City, objected to use of machinery in the establishment named and instituted a boycott.

PLUNGED INTO A CREEK.

Train Wrecked and Burned—Only One Death, But Many Injured.

Train 2 on the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Memphis, which left Birmingham, Ala., Wednesday evening for Kansas City, was derailed west of Wallford, Ark., at 3 o'clock Thursday morning. The combination coach, chair car and sleeper went over the bank, the combination car going into Spring river. The chair car and sleeper were both consumed.

One passenger was fatally injured, dying shortly afterward, and about thirty others more or less seriously hurt. It is believed none of the latter will die.

No. 2 is a fast through train from the south. Between Wallford and Hardy the Memphis tracks parallel the Spring river, a little stream running out of Mammoth Springs.

When near Wallford the engineer felt the train leap forward and found that it had parted between the two day coaches. The last three cars bumped over the ties, the chair car and sleeper turning over on their sides and the combination car finally going into the river.

The engineer backed up the front part of the train and the work of rescue was immediately begun. The terror of the passengers who had gone down into the stream with the combination car was heightened by cries of alarm from the chair car and sleeper, both of which soon took fire. The intense darkness added to the confusion and it was some time before an organized effort at rescue was put into effect by the train crew and those of the passengers who had been able to extricate themselves without aid. The passengers in the burning cars were luckily rescued before the fire had reached its height, and but few in those cars were injured.

The wreck is the first one of a serious nature in the history of the Memphis road, and according to the statement of General Passenger Agent J. E. Lockwood, Mr. Hoover is the first passenger ever killed while riding on a train on that road.

REPORT OF SECRETARY BLISS.

Document Shows Work of Interior Department For Past Year.

Secretary of the Interior Bliss, in his annual report made public Thursday night, submits estimates aggregating \$156,532,419 for appropriation by congress for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897.

Discussing pensions he says 200,000 pension claims are awaiting adjudication and it is estimated that 40 or 50 per cent of these will be finally admitted. If they are rapidly adjudicated they will swell the pension roll from \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000. When, however, these claims are adjudicated and the first payments made thereon, the amount of the pension roll will decrease very rapidly, possibly to \$125,000,000 or \$130,000,000 the first year.

The total Indian population of the United States exclusive of the New York Indians and the five civilized tribes, approximately 177,178, located on 177 reservations, which contain approximately 33,404,837 acres. Of these, 4,545 have accepted allotments of land which aggregate 644,147 acres. Secretary Bliss says while the opening of the Wichita reservation in Oklahoma to white settlement would greatly promote the development of that country, yet, in view of the unsettled condition of the questions affecting their rights, until there is further legislation he does not see how it can be done without causing great injury and distress.

To guard against this recommendation is made that the Daves commission be authorized to investigate questions as to their rights and claims and report recommendations from speedy and just settlement.

DINASTROUS PRAIRIE FIRES.

Three Thousand Sheep Burned in Texas Counties.

A terrific prairie fire has passed through Lubbock, Hale and Crosby counties, Texas, doing great damage to the ranges.

It originated east of Crosby county, burned eastward through Crosby before a severe west wind.

The flames made a fire ten miles wide, which traveled at great speed. At least 400 square miles of territory were burned. Cattle suffered and many were burned to death. Three thousand sheep were burned in one flock and many farmers lost all their winter feed.

NEWSPAPER MEN TO MEET.

Press Association of Three States to Gather at Eureka Springs.

All the officials of the state press associations of Missouri, Texas and Arkansas met in conference at Eureka Springs, Ark., and finally adopted the proposed plan to hold a joint meeting of all three states at Eureka Springs May 25th, 26th and 27th.

The regular business meetings of each state will be held in separate halls and a joint programme carried out in the auditorium, which has a seating capacity of 3,000.

The tri-state meeting gives promise of being the most notable gathering of newspaper men ever held in the southwest.

GERMANS ROUTE CHINESE.

WILLIAM'S SOLDIERS TAKE A FORT FROM THE CELESTIALS.

PIGTAILS FEARED GERMAN CRUISER

The Sultan of Turkey Will Make Amends to Austria For Insults Offered the Latter's Agents.

Advices received from Shanghai, China, state that the commander of the German cruiser Division, landed troops at Kiao-Chau on the evening of November 15th. The three forts were held by 1,500 Chinese and their guns commanded the fleet. Admiral von Deiderich placed his four cruisers immediately opposite, ready to fire, and sent an ultimatum ordering the evacuation of the forts within three hours.

Six hundred German troops and six guns were then landed and began to march forward. The Chinese hesitated a few moments and then the whole body bolted helter skelter across the hills behind the forts. The Germans quietly entered the fortifications, hauled down the Chinese flag and hoisted the German standard, which the warships saluted immediately. The Chinese general, who had his family with him, did not flee, but claimed German protection. The forts are now held by the Germans, who, it is believed at Shanghai, intend to remain permanently.

In official Chinese circles Germany is considered to have committed an act of war, but it is regarded as improbable that China, on account of her weakness will take action upon it as such.

American and British warships have been ordered to Kiao Chau to watch developments. The greatest interest is felt as to the result of Germany's action, because the region is immensely rich in minerals, and the harbor is the best along the coast.

It is now asserted that the murder of the two German marines near Yen-Chu-Fu (Yeng-Tu) was not the work of bandits, as originally understood, but was deliberately planned by Li Hung Hing, governor of the province, prior to his departure for See-Chuan, of which he has been appointed viceroy.

The Berlin correspondent of the Daily Chronicle says:

"Emperor William is devoting considerable attention to the course of affairs in China and on Wednesday discussed the position of the missionaries with Bishop Anzere, vicar of the German Catholic missions in China."

Sultan Will Apologize to Austria.

A special dispatch from Vienna says that a telegram has been received there from Baron de Calice, the Austrian ambassador at Constantinople, saying that the sultan has declared his willingness to give Austria full satisfaction for the Messina incidents and in regard to the disputes in connection with the transportation of Turkish troops during the recent war between Turkey and Greece.

Had not the Turkish government yielded to the demands of the government of Austria for redress on account of the indignities offered to an Austrian merchant of Mersina, Herr Brazzafelli, the Austrian ambassador at Constantinople, Baron de Calice, would have left the Turkish capital and an Austrian warship would have bombarded the port of Mersina, Asia Minor.

SEAMEN INDICTED FOR MURDER.

Anderson, the Cook, and Others Charged With Killing Captain Whitman.

The federal grand jury in the case of the crew of the Olive Pecker convened at Norfolk, Va., Wednesday and returned the following true bills:

John Anderson, for murder of Captain John W. Whitman. Same for the murder of Mate William Wallace Saunders (two indictments.) Same for the destruction of the vessel.

William Horsburgh, John Lind and Manuel Barrial, accessories after the murder of Mate Saunders. Same accessories after the murder of Captain Whitman.

John Anderson, William Horsburgh, John Lind and Juan de Doia Barrial for destruction of vessel.

PARK COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

Chairman Boynton Shows That Satisfactory Progress Has Been Made.

General Henry V. Boynton, as chairman of the Chicamunga and Chattanooga National park commission, has submitted to the secretary of war the annual report of the commission, showing that satisfactory progress has been made in the establishment of the park in accordance with existing laws and the plan heretofore adopted by the war department.

No change seems to the park commission to be required or to be advisable. No new legislation is suggested and no increase of the appropriation of that made for the current fiscal year is needed.